



The Avenger

USS GEORGE H.W. BUSH (CVN 77)

Volume 2, Issue 1

January 28, 2010

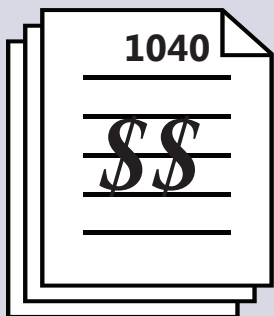
In this
month's Avenger



BUSH addresses new drug trend. *Page 2*



BUSH Sailor awarded Bronze Star. *Page 2*



Calendar of events. *Page 4*

BUSH Sailors help Haiti recovery

By MC2 Nathan A. Bailey

Sailors from USS GEORGE H.W. BUSH (CVN 77) departed Norfolk, Va., to join the relief efforts in Haiti Jan. 21.

The 22 Sailors joined seven Haitian Creole-speaking Bush Sailors who departed Jan. 19.

The Bush Sailors are among the more than 12,500 U.S. military personnel already supporting Operation Unified Response, helping to meet the most urgent needs of the Haitian people following the 7.0 magnitude earthquake that devastated the country Jan. 12.

Hull Technician 3rd Class Jimmy Murray, a certified rescue swimmer, jumped at the opportunity to go to Haiti.

"There has to be someone to help when people can't help



U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Jason Stumberg

Sailors prepare cases of water for delivery at Port-au-Prince International Airport. Port-au-Prince was hit by a 7.0-magnitude earthquake on Jan. 12.

themselves," Murray said.

Sailors will assist in the humanitarian effort including

distributing food and water as well as providing logistical support.

FRG educates Sailors and spouses on OPSEC

By MC3 Joshua D. Sheppard

"Loose lips sink ships."

This phrase, popularized in allied World War II propaganda, told people to be aware of unknowingly passing sensitive information to enemy spies.

Unintentional release of information could have cost allied lives or in fact the entire war effort. Limiting or eliminating these unintended security breaches is the principle mission of operational security, or OPSEC.

In today's era of increasingly popular and easily accessible social media and social networking sites, the phrase

could just as easily be, "loose keyboards sink ships."

USS GEORGE H.W. BUSH's (CVN 77) Family Readiness Group conducted OPSEC training as part of its monthly meeting, Jan. 11.

Its purpose was to educate BUSH Sailors and their spouses on preventing unintended release of sensitive information, particularly through online and social media outlets.

"Every single family member has critical information, whether they like it or not," said Jim Magdalenski, Naval Network Warfare Command force OPSEC program manager. "Positions, capabilities, operations, personnel and family information

are examples of information that we have to protect."

Certain information, while sensitive, is essential to pass on to selected individuals. For example, spouses must know when their Sailor is deploying or when they are returning.

The problem arises when this information is posted online; particularly to social networking Web sites. Some of the newest espionage techniques do not require the old cloak and dagger methods.

It simply involves motivated individuals with access to the Internet putting the pieces together, Magdalenski said.

For instance, an adversary
See OPSEC, page 3

There's nothing nice about Spice

By MC3(SW) Dominique Moore

Navy installations across the world are raising awareness about the new drug "Spice," which has led to punitive actions for many Sailors throughout the fleet.

On board USS GEORGE H.W. BUSH (CVN 77), Sailors are being educated, and in turn held responsible, for the inappropriate use of this product.

Spice is an herbal product marketed as aromatic or incense. Although product packaging includes the warning "Not for human consumption," it is being smoked for its marijuana-like high.

In appearance, Spice is a green, leafy material similar to marijuana or oregano.

Spice and similar products contain one or more synthetic cannaboid compounds, according to Naval Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention (NADAP).

Symptoms normally occur within five to 10 minutes after using this drug and can last anywhere from eight to 12 hours. Side effects can include cotton mouth, sensitivity to light, a warm sensation in the limbs, dry eyes, paranoia, panic attacks, visual hallucinations and sleeplessness.

Spice can also result in hangover-like effects including painful head pressure, delirium,

impaired coordination and time distortion.

Reports have indicated that Spice may have adverse effects on the heart, circulation, and the nervous system, and is potentially addictive.

There have been no studies to date that evaluate the long-term effects caused by the use of Spice.

"USS GEORGE H.W. BUSH is using all available means such as the Plan of the Day, PowerPoint presentations, and messages put out via the IMC (the ship's public announcement system), to help inform our Sailors of this issue," said Capt. Chip Miller, USS GEORGE H.W. BUSH commanding officer. "We are handling this issue the same way we would any other controlled substance."

An instruction recently released by the Navy, SECNAVINST 5300.28D, prohibits using substances like Spice, Salvia Divinorum, Jinsom Weed, and other natural and herbal substances for intoxicating purposes. Miller said.

Sailors caught using this product for unintended purposes will be held accountable.

"Sailors found guilty of using Spice have been awarded 45 days restriction, 45 days extra duty, deducted half a month's pay for two months, and administratively separated," said Lt. Cmdr.



Spice is a brand name for a mixture of herbs that have been sold as an incense around the world since 2002. Several different "flavors" of Spice have been marketed, which have been shown to contain different proportions of the synthetic cannaboid active ingredients.

Brendan Burke, USS GEORGE H.W. BUSH Judge Advocate General.

According to Burke, the Armed Forces Institute for Pathology in Bethesda, Md., has found a way to test for Spice. However, commanding officers do not need a positive urine sample to begin administrative separation for any Sailor caught abusing Spice or other related products.

In addition, COs have

been given the authority to implement a local standing order to prohibit the possession of Spice and related products. Anyone caught violating this order can be processed for misconduct under Article 92 in the Uniform Code of Military Justice.

"On board USS GEORGE H.W. BUSH we are standing behind the Navy's Zero Tolerance policy," Miller said.

OPSEC: *Continued from page 1*

can pull up a Sailor's social networking page, and from there can identify the Sailor's spouse, children and friends' names, pictures, locations and much more, Magdalenski said.

It can even be taken a step further, Magdalenski continued. An adversary can take the collective information learned from social networking pages, and then acquire telephone

numbers, places of work or worship, schools, home addresses and even aerial and ground-level photographs of frequented places.

Many people believe the information that they put on social networking sites can only be accessed by people whom they invite to see it, Magdalenski said.

In reality, an amateur hacker

can access this information within 30 minutes, and a professional takes less than five minutes.

"Practicing good OPSEC both at home and at work protects our families and our ship," said Capt. DeWolfe H. Miller, USS GEORGE H.W. BUSH (CVN 77) commanding officer.

To prevent online security breaches, never share usernames or passwords, don't use the same username and password for multiple

applications, keep personal and professional lives separate online, and don't post information that should not become public knowledge.

"I believe that Magdalenski's presentation enlightened us to the realities of poor OPSEC and reminded us that loose lips can do a lot more than just sink ships," Miller said.

The next FRG meeting is scheduled for Sunday, Feb. 7, at 4:00pm.



U.S. Navy photo by MC1(AW) Jason Winn

The Navy's newest aircraft carrier, USS GEORGE H.W. BUSH (CVN 77), underway in the Atlantic Ocean conducting sea trials. BUSH will return to homeport at Naval Station Norfolk, Va., to begin the workup cycle towards deployment after an extensive seven-month Post Shakedown Availability and Selective Restrictive Availability.

USS GEORGE H.W. BUSH (CVN 77) Departs for Sea Trials

By MC2 Nathan A. Bailey

USS GEORGE H.W. BUSH (CVN 77) departed Northrop Grumman Newport News Shipbuilding in Newport News, Va., for sea trials Jan. 27 after a seven-month maintenance period.

During Sea Trials, the ship's electronics, communication, navigation and other combat systems that were built or modified in the shipyard will be tested.

In addition, an inspection of the ship's catapults and jet blast deflectors will be conducted, as well as inspections of the ship's berthing spaces, demonstrations of search and rescue equipment firefighting capabilities, and an evaluation of food

service facilities to determine the ship's overall mission readiness.

Bush's sea trials come after a highly successful Post Shakedown Availability/Selective Restrictive Availability that officially completed the construction of the Navy's newest aircraft carrier.

"In just seven months, the ship experienced an amount of depot and intermediate level work comparable to an 11-month planned incremental availability," said Bush's Chief Engineer, Cmdr. Shannon Terhune.

Work on the ship over the last seven months included finishing the airwing spaces and combat systems suite, implementation of ship alterations to get the ship on the class maintenance plan, and the completion of the

ship's force work package.

Ship's force work saved the Navy more than half a million dollars, according to Bush Engineering Department Leading Chief Petty Officer, Master Chief Machinist's Mate (SW) Al Fuller, and more than 60 percent of the overall ship's force work package fell to Engineering Department Sailors to complete.

One major undertaking was completed by Damage Control division, who exhausted more than 6,800 man hours upgrading the ship's 10 damage control repair stations and 27 damage control unit lockers, saving the Navy more than \$680,000.

Another upgrade included Electric division
See SEA TRIALS, page 4

Command Corner

From the CMC's Desk:

From the Command Master Chief,

First and foremost I want to congratulate the entire crew on our successful redelivery to the fleet.

It has been a very arduous six-plus months in the shipyard, but thanks to your hard work and dedication, you made it all worth it.

Now our focus shifts to what lies on the horizon for USS GEORGE H.W. BUSH (CVN

77); work-ups and getting ready for our first major deployment.

If your loved ones have not been paying much attention to what information our Family Readiness Group (FRG) has been putting out so far, I strongly suggest they tune in.

Throughout the course of the year, the FRG will serve as a vital link between the ship and our families, as our schedule for the next several months will be filled with frequent underway periods.

It goes without saying, but

2010 will be a very busy year to be a USS GEORGE H.W. BUSH Sailor. What this all means for us is that we must continue to maintain the high levels of training and readiness that have established our reputation as the top carrier in the fleet.

Once we have successfully completed all of our qualifications, we will be a full-fledged member of the fleet, ready for tasking a moment's notice.

The recent tragedy in Haiti has taught us that any one of us could be called to serve in a

moment of crisis.

I'm sure none of the Sailors aboard USS CARL VINSON (CVN 70) had any idea they would be assisting with a global disaster relief effort, but thanks to their commitment to readiness they were able to answer the call.

Thanks to your continued efforts, I'm sure we will be able to give the same response, should the world need our assistance.

Respectfully,
CMDCM (AW/SW/FPJ)
John W. Heck

BUSH Sailor awarded Bronze Star while serving in Iraq

By MC3 Kasey Krall

Senior Chief Logistics Specialist (AW/SW) Beryl O'Connor was surprised when he received a Bronze Star in November for work he performed while serving as an individual augmentee (IA) in Iraq.

O'Connor, a Sailor assigned to USS GEORGE H.W. BUSH (CVN 77) Supply Department, said he thought he was going to receive a Defense Meritorious Service medal, but had unknowingly been nominated for, and later received, the Bronze Star.

"To be a senior chief getting a Bronze Star kind of made me take a step back and think about what I did while I was there. On a day-to-day basis, it was just a job, but I guess in the eyes of the Army, the general, and the other officers, it was above and beyond," O'Connor said.

O'Connor spent nine months in Iraq, from February to November, working 16-18 hours a day, seven days a week. While he was there, he helped make a lot of improvements to the



Photo courtesy of LSCS (AW/SW) Beryl O'Connor

USS GEORGE H.W. BUSH (CVN77) Sailor, Senior Chief Logistics Specialist (AW/SW) Beryl O'Connor was awarded a Bronze Star for his outstanding performance while serving as an individual augmentee (IA) in Iraq.

property accountability system, which had been very outdated, O'Connor said. In addition, he was involved in training of the updated system for 27 units. He also participated in a lot of high-tempo, outside-the-wire trips to make sure that property being delivered was getting to its intended destination after leaving the camp.

"After the coalition forces left in July, the bombings increased inside the camp. We had a lot of incoming rounds that took a lot of soldiers," said O'Connor.

Before July, O'Connor said his camp might get one or two rounds a month, but afterwards it became almost a daily habit. There was a two-day period when

they had eight or nine shells come across the wire. It was a reality check for a lot of them, he said, and brought the realization that they were in a war zone.

These conditions, and the nature of O'Connor's work, did not save much for down time.

"There was no (rest and relaxation) for our office. A lot of people were allowed a four-day pass, our office did not get those. Because of our tempo and what we did, we just couldn't be gone," he said.

Although O'Connor had been excited about the chance to go IA, when the time to return to the ship drew near, he was ready to come back. He missed his wife, he said, and called the IA experience a "Navy appreciation tour."

"It was a good tour. It was stressful, it was a lot of long hours. I probably wouldn't volunteer to do it again, but I would recommend it to anybody to do at least a six month tour over there to be able to understand what is actually going on," O'Connor said.

SEA TRIALS: *Continued from page 3*

converting the carrier's "77" island lights from incandescent bulbs to light emitting diode, saving the Navy 90 percent of the cost associated with light operation. Terhune credited the teamwork and cooperation between ship's force, Northrop Grumman Shipbuilding, Program Manager for Ships (In-Service Aircraft Carriers), Commander Naval Air Forces Atlantic (Maintenance and Material), Supervisor of Shipbuilding, Conversion and Repair (Newport

News), and more than 20 separate contractor organizations for an unprecedented level of efficiency in the execution of production work on the ship. He said the ship's crew appreciated the professionalism of all maintenance providers.

Upon completion of sea trials, Bush will return to its homeport of Naval Station Norfolk, Va., to begin the work-up cycle towards deployment and prepare for sustained flight operations at sea.

Free tax assistance information:

The IRS has provided free tax services to those earning less than \$56,000 a year, learn more at:

www.irs.gov/efile/article/

The Navy has worked out an option with H&R Block for Sailors and their dependents to provide free online tax preparation. Learn more at:

www.militaryonesource.com/MOS/FindInformation/Category/TaxFilingServices.aspx



COMMANDING OFFICER
Capt. DeWolfe H. Miller III

PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICER
Lt. Cmdr. John Schofield

EDITOR
MC1 Michael Tackitt

AVENGER STAFF
MC2 Nathan Bailey, MC3 (SW) Dominique Moore, MC3 Kasey Krall, MC3 Joshua Sheppard and MCSN J. Scott St. Clair

"The Avenger" is produced by the Media Department of USS GEORGE H.W. BUSH (CVN 77). The editorial content of this newspaper is edited and approved by the Media Department of USS GEORGE H.W. BUSH.

"The Avenger" is an authorized publication for the members of the USS GEORGE H.W. BUSH (CVN 77) and their families. Its contents do not necessarily reflect the official views of the U.S. Government, the Department of Defense or the U.S. Navy and do not imply the endorsement thereof.